In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 7 and 12 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 1-6, 8-11 and 13-14 as follows:

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1. (Currently amended) A method for selectively downloading a multi-part e-mail message to an e-mail client operated by a user from an e-mail server, the multi-part e-mail message including ~~an~~ at least one attachment, the attachment being encoded the method comprising: ~~the steps of:~~

(a) retrieving said at least one attachment information for the multi-part e-mail message from the e-mail server;

downloading said at least one attachment of the multi-part email message from said email server;

(b) preparing a formatted message for sending to the e-mail client, said formatted message containing a link to the at least one downloaded attachment, such that the attachment is not sent to the e-mail client;

(c) sending said formatted message to the e-mail client; ~~and~~

(d) displaying said formatted message to the user by the e-mail client~~;~~

decoding said at least one attachment;

requesting said at least one attachment by said e-mail client; and

sending said requested attachment to said e-mail client.

2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said attachment information includes the entirety of the multi-part e-mail message, such that ~~step (b)~~ said preparing a formatted message further comprises the ~~step~~

of separating the multi-part e-mail message into a plurality of portions,

including at least a first portion containing the attachment.

3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the

multi-part e-mail message includes a text part, such that ~~step (b)~~ said preparing

a formatted message further comprises the ~~step of~~ separating the multi-part

e-mail message into a second portion containing said text-part, and wherein

~~step (b)~~ said preparing a formatted message includes ~~the step of~~ adding said

second portion to said formatted message.

4. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~3~~1, wherein said

requesting said at least one attachment by said e-mail client further comprises

~~the step of: (e)~~ selecting said link by the user from said formatted

message.

5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 4~~1~~, wherein said

downloading at least one attachment from said email server ~~further comprising~~

~~the step of: (f)   downloading said attachment in a streamed manner~~ for

viewing by the user is performed in a streamed manner.

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 5, further comprising:

~~the steps of:~~

~~(g)~~ providing a Web browser for interacting with the user; and

(h) displaying said attachment by said Web browser, such that ~~step (f)~~ said downloading said attachment is performed according to HTTP.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said attachment information is a header for the attachment.~~, such that the method further comprises the step of (e) downloading the attachment from the e-mail server.~~

9. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~8~~1, wherein ~~step (e)~~ said downloading said attachment from said email server is performed in parallel to ~~step (b)~~ said preparing a formatted message.

10. (Currently amended) The method of claim 5, wherein ~~step (e)~~ said downloading said attachment from said email server includes ~~the step of~~ decoding said attachment.

11. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said attachment information is a header for the attachment, such that the method further comprises ~~the steps of:~~

(e) ~~selecting said link by the user from said formatted message;~~

(f) ~~downloading the attachment from the e-mail server; and~~

(g) downloading said attachment from proxy to client in a streamed manner for viewing by the user.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently amended)   The method of claim 1, wherein step (a) said retrieving at least one attachment information from said multi-part email message includes the step of providing an e-mail proxy for communicating with the e-mail server and with the e-mail client, such that steps (a)-(c) said retrieving said attachment, said downloading said attachment, said preparing said formatted message and said sending said formatted message are performed by said e-mail proxy.

14. (Currently amended)   A system for selectively downloading a multi-part e-mail message for a user, the multi-part e-mail message including an at least one attachment, the attachment being encoded, the system comprising:

(a)   an e-mail server for receiving the multi-part e-mail message;

(b)   an e-mail proxy in communication with said e-mail server for receiving at least attachment information about the multi-part e-mail message, and for preparing a formatted message containing a link to the attachment; and

(c)   an e-mail client in communication with said e-mail proxy for receiving said formatted message and for displaying said formatted message to

the user, such that the attachment is displayed to the user after the user selects

said link.

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15. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein said e-mail proxy

downloads the attachment with said attachment information.

16. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein said e-mail proxy

downloads the attachment separately from said attachment information.

17. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein the multi-part

e-mail message contains a text part, and said formatted message includes said

text-part.

18. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein said e-mail proxy

downloads and decodes the attachment before the attachment is sent to said

e-mail client.

19. (New) A method for selectively downloading a plurality of

A2   portions but not an entirety of a multi-part e-mail message to an e-mail client

operated by a user from an e-mail proxy, the method comprising the steps of:

retrieving the multi-part e-mail message from an e-mail server;

separating said multi-part e-mail message into a plurality of portions;

parsing at least one header from said plurality of portions according to at

least one user preference;

preparing a formatted message by the e-mail proxy for sending to the

e-mail client, said formatted message containing said plurality of portions but

not the entirety of said multi-part e-mail message; and

sending said formatted message to said e-mail client.